



St. Paul United Church of Christ  
 31654 Mound Road  
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 Worship Service &  
 Sunday School — Sunday, 10 am  
 Office Hours: M-Th, 9am-1pm  
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# The Good News

June 2022

PASTOR KC

**“But when the Father will send the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” John 14:26**

Christ Jesus promised that we would not be alone in this world. Furthermore, as the Holy Spirit lives within us as our teacher, how many of us are *really* attending to his presence. *This is a true measure of transformation in the life of a Christian.* God provided an Advocate who offers believers the chance to relax and receive rather than live by the *oughts*, *musts* and *shoulds* that dominate our lives. Rather than focusing on the factors and priorities which our culture places so much emphasis, becoming spirit led is a whole new way of *being*. If you're seeking transformation, culture isn't where you'll find it; *transformation begins within you.*

Just as the disciples had to learn hard lessons of following the way of Jesus, our spiritual journeys carry similar challenges and lessons which are difficult to adopt. Therefore, the Holy Spirit becomes our teacher—and reminder—of who we are in the eyes of God. Don't be discouraged! Jesus offers himself as an antidote to our dismay. **“These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33** Amen.



June 5 is **Pentecost Sunday**. Please remember to bring your favorite (ANY COLOR) flowers to be planted in our flower beds on each side of the lobby doors. If you would like to make a monetary donation, see Diane. The flowers will be placed in church for the worship service that Sunday. Remember to wear **RED**.



## CONSISTORY

Our monthly Consistory meeting was held on May 10. We have finished our review and updates to the Constitution. We will review the updates and bring them to the Consistory. Once Consistory reviews it, we will make the updates available to the congregation (possibly September) and then bring these updates to a vote at our Congregational Meeting in January. I want to thank the group that met over the last couple of months. We met every Monday evening. It was no small task, but we did it little by little. The boilers were turned off right after Mother's Day. We will be removing the storm windows to the Sanctuary soon. We are planning our landscaping project after the Memorial Day weekend. We will be planting flowers and laying new mulch. Hopefully, we will have the kids involved and maybe a picnic afterwards. Please see Linda or me for information. We are still looking for someone to be co-treasurer. This person will be working with Steve Popyk. It is always a good idea that we have two sets of eyes looking at things when it comes to our finances. If you are interested, please see Steve or me. Please remember if there is anything that needs attention (building, service, etc.), please let a member of Consistory know, so we can address it at our meeting. Things will be changing—updates, improvements bringing us into the 21st century is our goal.

Strengthen the Church Offering  
Sunday, June 5



*Dayton Regier graduated with a Computer Science Degree from Olivet College. He will start working for Evans Consulting Services in June. He is officially hanging up his baseball cleats, but looks to stay in the game with coaching.*



Dick & Cindy Weiler—June 22  
Herman & Betty Wolgast—June 24  
Mike & Kelly Gawel—June 28



1	Brent Grawburg
4	Buster Fritz
9	Maria Momeyer
12	Faye Mork
18	Dawn Regier
20	Mike Gawel
30	Laurie Gebert





“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus...if there is any excellence and there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things...and the God of peace will be with you.” *Philippians 4:6-9, excerpted NRSV*

This is just a portion of Paul’s simple instructions for a worry-free life. Just open your heart to the joy of God and pray continually. It is a repetition of his injunction to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.” *1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 NRSV* Sounds easy, doesn’t it? Or would you find it challenging to pray so often? Let’s break it down...

First, in a recent sermon, Pastor K.C. accurately told us that we live in a series of moments. In the press of those moments, it can seem difficult to find the time and attention to pray. I think that may be because we think of prayer as having to be more elaborate than it has to be. When Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray the Lord’s Prayer, he tells them to keep it simple. “...do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.” *Matthew 6:7b NRSV* “...whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” *Matthew 6:6 NRSV*

At its most basic, prayer is simply your heart speaking quietly to God. It does not have to be formal or structured. And it can be ordinary, even repetitive. There is a small but critical task I have to do several times a day that is also challenging. I find myself asking God’s help with it each time I do it. If God were human, God would surely tire of my asking for the same thing over and over. But God is infinitely helpful, and always there for me, so I can ask for help with this again and again, and it comforts me to do so. This prayer is a continuing part of my life.

And Paul goes a step further, telling us to always “rejoice!” That can be difficult in the mundane press of daily life. After all, who among us finds things to rejoice about on a daily basis? Sounds like too much effort. But perhaps an attitude adjustment is in order. Instead of looking for the major “hit” of joy, look for the daily dose of “good things” (with all due respect to Martha Stewart and her lists of “good things”). Have all your appointments worked out on time so that you’re not running frazzled from place to place? Did you locate that hard-to-find item in the grocery store (maybe you scored baby formula)? Did you get a phone call you had been waiting for? Did something you were worrying about *not* happen? Sometimes it’s the little moments of pleasant discovery that add joy to our lives. Don’t overlook these blessings. Learn to rejoice in them on an ongoing basis. Again, remembering to talk to God, to thank God, for these moments, is an important faith practice.

An ongoing dialog with God is composed of many parts but, at its most basic, you can think of it as a continuous conversation with God about what is going on in your life. While it is true that God already knows what you are going to say, being conscious of the blessings (“joy”) in your life and what you need from God opens you to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and a consciousness of the peace that comes from God. That mindfulness is what Paul refers to, and it leads to a peace that passes understanding. “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.”

BRANDON

Dear Members of St. Paul UCC,

I was once watching a powerful show that has biblical principles through various dramatizations. There was a scene in one of the episodes that I was recently reminded of.

The scene starts with a tragic scenario of a teenage boy's funeral. The clergyman present at the funeral sees the Mother sitting alone and broken. He walks over, places his hand on the Mother's shoulder and says nothing. Her grief and tears were very evident. With some time passing, the clergyman said that God would never give her more than she could bear and that God feels your pain. She started a statement, "What does God know about losing a..." She paused and caught herself before she finished her statement. It of course dawned on her that God knows exactly what it is like to lose the most perfect Son in Jesus.

There are so many instances throughout life where people feel alone. I for one have had my fair share of those. As do many many people that I encounter. Especially being in a prison now where most individuals I come into contact with have miniscule amounts of time incarcerated than I'm used to. But I've seen the pure brokenness that emits from their demeanor. It is just a reminder that so many have the feeling of absolute loneliness.

I just pray that more and more people come to the realization that God is truly with us in everything we endure. I've often wanted to wonder how God could know my pain, yet to come to really think that God has been through and experienced all things to know how to meet me in my pain. This provides me with a comfort and a knowledge that I will overcome.

I know God has been with me this entire time. I never would be who I am today if I were not supported by our Loving God.

All of you have continually enlightened my eyes to this. And it was highlighted during my birthday! Everyone's birthday wishes have meant so very much to me and I appreciate you all greatly. Know all of you have completely made my day.

God bless you all.

Ebel #752523

Newberry Correctional Facility, 13747 Co Rd 428, Newberry MI 49868

SUE

Home at last. If you have no vacation plans in the immediate future, start planning one for the old South. There is so much to see and experience - learning about our history both good AND bad. We must accept facts as they actually happened to appreciate how our Country came to be the

great land it is. We visited many historic places and some fun ones too and lots of offbeat eating places (I tried fried avocado, fried green tomatoes, a Mother Clucker Sammie (GOOD) and what I thought was cheesy grits, but was actually a dip for my sandwich (who eats dip with a fork?). Anyway, I tried some new things and had a great time. Came back with great enthusiasm for rummage; however, my bones are still walking the grounds of old plantations, a fort and a turtle hospital. I will be ready to start soon, as there is much to do, so it's all hands on deck in a week or so. See you then.